

Start and her community evident and a priority in all her work. I hope Congress joins me in honoring this Mississippi servant-leader and commending her work at enhancing her community, supporting her church, training the children of Winston County, and nurturing her family. She is a tremendous pillar of Louisville and deserves the honor given her this Friday.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TIMOTHY V. JOHNSON

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois. Madam Speaker, unfortunately yesterday, April 23, 2007, I was unable to cast my votes on H. Res. 179, H.R. 1434, and H.R. 1402 and wish the record to reflect my intentions had I been able to vote. Had I been present for rollcall No. 245 on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to H. Res. 179, expressing support for a National Foster Parents Day, I would have voted "aye"; had I been present for rollcall No. 246 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1434, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 896 Pittsburgh Street in Springdale, Pennsylvania, as the Rachel Carson Post Office Building, I would have voted "aye."; had I been present for rollcall No. 247 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 1402, designating the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 320 South Lecanto Highway in Lecanto, Florida, as the Sergeant Dennis J. Flanagan Lecanto Post Office Building, I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, last Friday, I was unavoidably absent during rollcalls 236 through 244. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 236, the Sessions Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 237, the Garrett Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 238, the Campbell Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 239, the McHenry Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 240, the Price Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 241, the Putnam Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 242, the Price Amendment. I would have voted "nay" on rollcall 243, the motion to recommit H.R. 1257 with instructions. I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 244, final passage of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act of 2007.

IN RECOGNITION OF MARJORIE
"PEGGY" KATHLEEN HELLER

HON. DENNIS A. CARDOZA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 24, 2007

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to remember the late Marjorie Kathleen Heller. Known to all as "Peggy," she was a wonderful friend, a remarkable teacher, an outstanding mother, and an extraordinary member of our community in Atwater, California. At the age of 91, Peggy Heller passed away on Friday, April 20, 2007.

This occasion is particularly personal to me because Peggy Heller was my reading teacher in the third grade. She taught me to read in a small silver trailer on the playground of Elmer Wood Elementary School in Atwater. She was an inspiring woman, a great friend, and I never knew her to have a bad day. Peggy's love for children was evident in her words, her generosity, and her entire persona. She was a pillar of the community, an amazing educator and a dear friend who will be missed by everyone in our community.

Peggy Heller was born in Oakland, California, on June 15, 1915, to Walter and Mac Gernreich. She graduated from the University of California, Berkeley in 1935 at the age of 19 and began teaching a year later at South Fork Union High School in Miranda, California. In 1938, she married Jim Heller and they moved to Atwater, California.

Peggy devoted her life to the field of education and to her community. During the early years of her sons' lives, she worked as a substitute teacher at Livingston High School. She later began her work as a full-time teacher in Atwater in 1943. While working as a third grade teacher, the superintendent, Mr. Tom Olaeta, suggested she pursue her interests in reading instruction. She became Merced County's first reading specialist in 1955 and later earned her reading teacher's credentials in 1968.

Many of the instructional approaches Peggy used as a teacher have now been implemented in schools across the Central Valley. She loved and respected children and strived to instill a positive feeling of self worth in each of them. She was also a mentor-teacher long before the idea was popular and she always assisted those who came to her for advice. She devoted countless hours to tutoring students and assisting teachers before, after school and on the weekends. She effortlessly helped diagnose and remediate students' reading troubles. She is an inspiration to many teachers, not only in Merced County, but to the State of California. Peggy believed each member of the school staff played a vital role in the education of youngsters. Not only did Peggy work hard in her classroom, she graciously hosted many special occasions for teachers such as Christmas get-togethers and retirement teas. Even though Peggy was the resident expert on reading instruction, her inquisitive nature led her to constantly read journals and books about education. She attended classes and seminars often at her own expense and she always shared her knowledge with others.

In 1981, after 45 years of teaching, Peggy retired, briefly. She was called upon to teach

English as a second language, which she did with much success. In 1987, Peggy was appointed supervisor for Chapman College.

Aside from the fact that Peggy was an outstanding professional educator, she and her husband were great humanitarians. Throughout the years she served our community in a variety of capacities. She was responsible for forming the Atwater Recreation Commission and served as its first chairwoman. During her tenure as chairwoman, the commission built Ralston Park and Heller Park. She served on the County Recreation Commission, too. Both Peggy's and Jim's interest in Atwater's youth was shown by their effort to organize fundraisers for a new public swimming pool, the Atwater Plunge. They even housed Red Cross swimming instructors for many summers. She and her friends started a club for teens and taught dancing on Friday nights. The Hellers also helped Atwater develop good relations with Castle Air Force Base and they helped find housing for and entertained military personnel. Peggy was an active participant in the Girl Scouts of America, Parent Teachers Associations, International Reading Association, American Association of University Women, Retired Teachers, Atwater Women's Club, Merced County Historical Society and Bloss Historical Society.

Peggy received many awards for her service to the community and her work as an educator. The National Education Association named Peggy "Outstanding Teacher at the Intermediate Level" in central California in March of 1966 and presented her with the Golden Apple, of which she earned several. She received Atwater's "Mother of the Year" award and was named "Woman of Distinction" in 1991 by Soroptimist. In 1995, she was given the ultimate honor of dedicating a new school in her name, the Peggy Heller Elementary School in Atwater. Later that year she received recognition from the State legislature during Women's History Month for her work with Project Cherish in Atwater. In 1999, as a member of the California State Assembly, I named Peggy "Woman of the Year" for the 26th District.

Peggy Heller was preceded in death by her grandson Brian Boru in 1983 and her husband Jim in 1985. Today, she is survived by her son Jim and his wife Barbara, and her son Brian and his wife Dee. She also leaves behind her grandchildren Jim III and his wife Kathy, Randall and his wife Diana, Christopher and his wife Amy, Tamera and her husband Mark Johnson, and Kandace and her husband Ron Osborn. Also surviving are her 12 great-grandchildren Spencer, James IV, Randall, Nicole, Joshua and Lindsay Heller, Sophia Heller, Samantha, Mason and Tyler Johnson, and Jared and Courtney Osborn. Lastly, Peggy is survived by her caregivers Jeffrey Lawton, Mary McMurphy and Jackie Benner.

Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to join the community of Atwater in recognizing Marjorie "Peggy" Kathleen Heller. Our community benefits greatly from the example she set throughout her lifetime of service as an educator who dedicated her life to her community and her family.